

JOHN L. BURRIS, Esq. SBN 69888
BENJAMIN NISENBAUM, Esq. SBN 222173
LATEEF H. GRAY, Esq. SBN 250055
LAW OFFICES OF JOHN L. BURRIS

Airport Corporate Centre
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 1120
Oakland, California 94621
Telephone: (510) 839-5200
Facsimile: (510) 839-3882
john.burris@johnburrislaw.com
bnisenbaum@gmail.com
lateef.gray@johnburrislaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Barbara Doss, individually; B.A., co-successor-in-interest to Decedent Dajuan Armstrong, by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman; J.L.J.A., co-successor-in-interest to Decedent Dajuan Armstrong, by and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook; and O.A., co-successor-in-interest to Decedent Dajuan Armstrong, by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Chastity Williams,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, a municipal corporation; GREGORY AHERN, individually and in his official capacity as Sheriff for the ALAMEDA COUNTY Sheriff's Office; "FNU" MOSCHETTI, individually and in his official capacity as a Deputy Sheriff for the ALAMEDA COUNTY Sheriff's Office; JOSHUA PLOSSER, individually and in his official capacity as a Deputy Sheriff for the ALAMEDA COUNTY Sheriff's Office; KEVIN CALHOUN, individually and in his official capacity as a Deputy Sheriff for the ALAMEDA COUNTY Sheriff's Office; EDUARDO RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ individually and in his official capacity as a Deputy Sheriff for the ALAMEDA COUNTY Sheriff's Office; MONICA DEVINE, individually and in her official capacity as a Deputy Sheriff for the ALAMEDA COUNTY Sheriff's Office; JOSEPHINE COSTANZO, individually and in her official capacity as a Deputy Sheriff for the ALAMEDA COUNTY Sheriff's Office; DYLAN GREEN, individually and in his official capacity as a Deputy Sheriff for the

CASE NO.:

COMPLAINT FOR WRONGFUL DEATH
AND VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DAMAGES

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

ALAMEDA COUNTY Sheriff's Office; and DOES 1-50, inclusive, individually, jointly and severally,

Defendants.

INTRODUCTION

1. This case arises out of the wrongful death of DUJUAN ARMSTRONG, a twenty three-year-old man, who was serving a weekend sentence at Santa Rita Jail. On Friday June 22, 2018, Mr. ARMSTRONG reported to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Santa Rita Jail, for his second consecutive weekend in the Jail Weekend Inmate Program. On June 23, 2018, the defendant deputies unreasonably killed Mr. ARMSTRONG during restraint. Defendant deputies were well aware that they had killed Mr. ARMSTRONG and attempted to conceal Mr. ARMSTRONG's death. Moreover, Defendant deputies were not properly trained in how to avoid asphyxiation during restraint.

JURISDICTION

2. This action arises under Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 1983. Title 28 of The United States Code, Sections 1331 and 1343 confers jurisdiction upon this Court. The unlawful acts and practices alleged herein occurred in Dublin, California, which is within this judicial district. Title 28 United States Code Section 1391(b) confers venue upon this Court.

PARTIES

3. Decedent, DUJUAN ARMSTRONG (hereinafter "Decedent"), was an individual residing in the County of Alameda, State of California. Decedent was unmarried at the time of his death and died intestate. Decedent was readily identifiable as African American. Decedent did not file any legal actions prior to his death. Decedent has three surviving minor children.

1 4. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff BARBARA DOSS (hereinafter “PLAINTIFF
2 DOSS”), has been and is a resident of Alameda County. PLAINTIFF DOSS is the biological mother
3 of Decedent ARMSTRONG.

4 5. Plaintiff B.A. sues in his individual capacity, through his Guardian Ad Litem LILLY
5 COLEMAN, as Decedent ARMSTRONG’s child and in representative capacity and co-successor-in-
6 interest to Decedent ARMSTRONG pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Sections
7 377.30.and 377.60 and California Probate Code Section 6402.

8 6. Plaintiff J.L.J.A. sues in her individual capacity, through her Guardian Ad Litem JANAE
9 COOK, as Decedent ARMSTRONG’s child and in a representative capacity as co-successor-in-
10 interest to Decedent ARMSTRONG pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Sections
11 377.30.and 377.60 and California Probate Code Section 6402.

12 7. Plaintiff O.A. sues his individual capacity, through his Guardian Ad Litem CHASTITY
13 WILLIAMS, as Decedent ARMSTRONG’s child and in a representative capacity as co-successor-in-
14 interest to Decedent ARMSTRONG pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Sections 377.30.
15 and 377.60 and California Probate Code Section 6402.

16 8. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant COUNTY OF ALAMEDA (hereinafter
17 “DEFENDANT COUNTY” is a municipal corporation, existing under the laws of the State of
18 California. Alameda County Sheriff’s Office (ASCO) and Santa Rita Jail (SRJ) operate under the
19 supervision of the COUNTY OF ALAMEDA.

20 9. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant GREGORY AHERN, (hereinafter “DEFENDANT
21 AHERN”), was the Sheriff and chief policymaker for the County of Alameda Sheriff’s Office, and is
22 sued individually and in his official capacity.

23 10. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant JOSHUA PLOSSER, (hereinafter “DEFENDANT
24
25
26
27
28

1 PLOSSER”), was a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Alameda Sheriff’s Office, and is sued
2 individually and in his official capacity.

3 11. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant KEVIN CALHOUN (hereinafter “DEFENDANT
4 CALHOUN”), was a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Alameda Sheriff’s Office, and is sued
5 individually and in his official capacity.
6

7 12. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant EDUARDO RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ (hereinafter
8 “DEFENDANT RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ”), was a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Alameda
9 Sheriff’s Office, and is sued individually and in his official capacity.

10 13. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant MONICA DEVINE (hereinafter “DEFENDANT
11 DEVINE”), was a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Alameda Sheriff’s Office, and is sued
12 individually and in her official capacity.
13

14 14. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant JOSEPHINE CONSTANZO (hereinafter
15 “DEFENDANT CONSTANZO”), was a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Alameda Sheriff’s Office,
16 and is sued individually and in her official capacity.
17

18 15. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant DYLAN GREEN (hereinafter “DEFENDANT
19 GREEN”), was a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Alameda Sheriff’s Office, and is sued individually
20 and in his official capacity.

21 16. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant “FNU” MOSCHETTI (hereinafter “DEFENDANT
22 MOSCHETTI”), was a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Alameda Sheriff’s Office, and is sued
23 individually and in his official capacity.
24

25 17. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and/or capacities of defendants sued herein as
26 DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and therefore sue said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs
27 will amend this complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiffs
28

1 believe and allege that each of the DOE defendants is legally responsible and liable for the incident,
2 injuries and damages hereinafter set forth. Each defendant proximately caused injuries and damages
3 because of their negligence, breach of duty, negligent supervision, management or control, violation
4 of public policy and/or use of excessive force. Each defendant is liable for his/her personal conduct,
5 vicarious or imputed negligence, fault, or breach of duty, whether severally or jointly, or whether
6 based upon agency, employment, ownership, entrustment, custody, care or control or upon any other
7 act or omission. Plaintiffs will ask leave to amend their complaint subject to further discovery.
8

9 18. In engaging in the conduct alleged herein, Defendant police officers acted under the
10 color of law and in the course and scope of their employment with Alameda County Sheriff's Office.
11 In engaging in the conduct described herein, Defendant deputies exceeded the authority vested in
12 them as deputies under the United States and California Constitutions, and as employees of Alameda
13 County Sheriff's Department.
14

15 19. For State causes of action related to Federal claims, Plaintiffs are required to comply with an
16 administrative claim requirement under California law. Plaintiffs timely filed a Government Tort
17 Claim with County of Alameda notifying the County of Plaintiffs' intent to file a lawsuit against
18 County of Alameda and the involved Deputies.
19

20 20. Plaintiffs contend that the County of Alameda is liable for all state law causes of action
21 under the theory of Respondeat Superior, wherein damages occurred while County of Alameda
22 employees were engaged in the performance of their job duties.
23

24 STATEMENT OF FACTS

25 21. On June 22, 2018, at approximately 8:37 p.m., Decedent reported to the Alameda County
26
27
28

1 Sheriff's Office at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, California. As part of sentencing in an unrelated criminal
2 matter, Decedent was to serve time by reporting to the Jail Weekend Inmate Program at Santa Rita
3 Jail. The incident in question took place on Decedent's second consecutive weekend reporting to
4 Santa Rita Jail. Decedent had four months to serve in weekend increments at Santa Rita Jail.

5 22. Upon reporting to Santa Rita Jail, Decedent was cleared and admitted for his weekend
6 commitment by Alameda County Sheriff's Office's intake staff, in spite of having ingested narcotics
7 sometime before admission and exhibiting clear symptoms that he was under severe distress.
8

9 23. On the evening of June 22, 2018, Decedent placed several phone calls to his girlfriend,
10 Chastity Williams. Decedent's dialogue and responses were "limited as he typically responded
11 slowly with few words and/or disjointed sentences."
12

13 24. On June 23, 2018, at approximately 5:25 a.m., Defendant RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ and
14 witness, Deputy Soto, observed Decedent, who had difficulty expressing coherent words to the
15 deputies. Deputy Soto told the Intake Deputies about Decedent's behavior.

16 25. Deputy Valentine, who began his shift at 5:00 a.m. on June 23, 2018, observed decedent yell
17 "Help me!", with Decedent's behavior worsening, as he kneeled on all fours, barked, cried and
18 desperately continued yelling out "Help me!". Nonetheless, there is no record that suggests that any
19 help was given to Decedent at this time.
20

21 26. At approximately 6:08 a.m., Decedent allegedly first notified Defendant deputies that he was
22 "high." Deputy Hoodye alleges that Decedent communicated to him that this was his first time being
23 high. According to Deputy Soto, Decedent had trouble communicating this simple statement to the
24 deputies.
25

26 27. By 7:20 a.m., Decedent's condition was so severe that he continuously banged on his cell
27
28

1 door. However, instead of providing immediate medical care to Decedent, Defendants transferred
2 Decedent from this initial cell because it was located near the nurses's station and his alarming
3 behaviour allegedly made it difficult for the nurses to work on other tasks. Meanwhile Decedent was
4 simply trying to get help and medical attention for himself.

5 28. At approximately 7:31 a.m., nurses collected a urine sample from Decedent, without incident.
6 Nonetheless, by 9:30 a.m., Decedent was observed completely naked in his cell. No recorded action
7 was taken. At about 11:08 a.m., Defendant Deputy TOWNSEND conducted a general observation
8 check, whereupon he observed Decedent still naked in his cell. During this interaction, Decedent
9 once again notified Defendants of the drugs he had consumed the prior day.
10

11 29. At approximately 2:10 p.m., Deputy Bryning observed Decedent, who was still naked in his
12 cell, still displaying symptoms of distress. Decedent was staring right through Deputy Bryning as if
13 Deputy Bryning were not there.
14

15 30. At approximately 2:20 p.m., Deputy Eastus observed Decedent standing inside his cell,
16 still completely naked. At this point, Decedent's behavior had drastically worsened from bizarre to
17 alarming.
18

19 31. Around this same time, Deputy Moruza and Deputy Soto, who witnessed Decedent's
20 behavior, allegedly reported to the nursing staff that Decedent needed medical attention. Nonetheless,
21 there is no record that anything was done to medically aid Decedent at this time.
22

23 32. At approximately 2:36 p.m., Defendant Deputy TOWNSEND observed Decedent's behavior
24 and noted it to be "associated with being paranoid and scared of everyone around him." Nonetheless,
25 no recorded aid of any sort was provided to Decedent during this time of crisis.

26 33. At approximately 3:00 p.m., Deputy Valentine reported that even though Decedent's
27 condition had worsened, he was cleared for further incarceration.
28

1 34. At approximately 3:31 p.m., members of the nursing staff informed Defendant Deputy
2 RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ that Decedent needed to be transported to the Outpatient Housing Unit.
3 However, there are no records that reflect that Defendant Deputy RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ acted
4 upon this medical advice and Decedent remained in his cell without any care.

5 35. Defendants waited almost 24 hours, from the time Decedent reported to Santa Rita jail, to
6 attempt to provide him with the medical care he desperately needed during Decedent's time of crisis
7 while in Defendants' custody. Defendants recklessly disregarded Decedent's behavior, which clearly
8 reflected that he needed specialized medical care.

9 36. At approximately 6:30 p.m., almost 22 hours after Decedent initially reported to Santa Rita
10 Jail, Defendants finally began to transport Decedent to the Outpatient Housing Unit.

11 37. Decedent was initially transported by Defendants PLOSSER, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ and
12 CALHOUN. Shortly after the transportation began, Decedent increasingly became more agitated and
13 distressed as Defendants COSTANZO, DEVINE and GREEN joined the transportation.

14 38. During transportation, Decedent continued to exhibit symptoms of paranoia and severe
15 distress, resulting in him being reluctant to be taken out of his cell and walked to the Outpatient
16 Housing Unit.

17 39. At some point during transportation, Defendant Deputies took Decedent to the ground,
18 whereby they slammed Decedent down to the ground and began violently striking Decedent with
19 their knees and feet.

20 40. At some point while Decedent was on the ground being violently kneed and kicked by
21 Defendant Deputies PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO
22 and GREEN, the decision was made to place Decedent in a WRAP device. Decedent was in a calm
23 state when the WRAP leg restraints were applied.

1 41. Despite showing obvious signs of distress and paranoia, Decedent, while handcuffed behind
2 his back and sitting in a L position, was asphyxiated by restraint, as the officers forced Decedent's
3 upper body towards his feet, with Defendant deputies applying force on Decedent's head, neck,
4 shoulder and back. Defendants then placed Decedent in a WRAP device. In addition, though he
5 was not spitting, a spit mask was placed over Decedent's head.
6

7 42. Defendant Moschetti allegedly performed a blood pressure check, which purportedly did not
8 raise any concerns for Decedent's medical condition. However, shortly thereafter, a nurse
9 attempted to check Decedent's pulse and was unable to locate one. Despite resuscitation efforts,
10 Decedent was pronounced deceased at 7:24 p.m.
11

12 43. As stated in the Coroner's Report, Decedent died as a result of being asphyxiated by
13 Defendants during restraint. Plaintiffs contend that that Decedent was dead or dying when the spit
14 mask was put on his face, and that Defendants placed the spit mask to conceal Decedent's actual
15 medical condition, that Decedent was dead or dying.
16

17 44. To add further insult to injury, Alameda County Officials within the District Attorney's
18 Office placed a "media hold" on the coroner's report, which prevented Plaintiffs from accessing the
19 information for over a year. This report contains critical information that would have provided
20 Decedent's family with answers regarding the circumstances surrounding their loved one's death.
21 Instead, Plaintiffs were simply left to speculate for over one year regarding Decedent's death.
22

23 45. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Alameda County, and DOES
24 26-50, inclusive, breached their duty of care to the public in that they have failed to discipline
25 Defendant Officers PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO,
26 GREEN and DOES 1-25 inclusive, for their respective misconduct and involvement in the incident
27 described herein. Their failure to discipline Defendant Officers PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-
28

1 VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25 inclusive, demonstrates the
2 existence of an entrenched culture, policy or practice of promoting, tolerating and/or ratifying with
3 deliberate indifference, the use of excessive and/or deadly force used by Defendants PLOSSER,
4 CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN and Does 1-25 inclusive,
5 amounting to severe misconduct. Plaintiffs further contend that this includes failing to train said
6 Defendants, and all or most Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs, in how to avoid asphyxiating subjects
7 during restraint, in violation of standard law enforcement training. Plaintiffs contend that high level
8 policy makers, including Defendant AHERN, and other policy makers, were aware of the
9 deficiencies in training in how to avoid asphyxiation during restraint, but nonetheless permitted
10 Alameda County Deputies to work in situations where they would routinely be expected to conduct
11 restraints of inmates, thereby foreseeably exposing inmates supervised by Alameda County deputies
12 to the foreseeable risk of being killed by being unreasonably asphyxiated during restraint.
13

14
15 46. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that members of the
16 Alameda County Sheriff's Office, including, but not limited to Defendant Officers and
17 DOES 1-25 inclusive and/or each of them, have individually and/or while acting in
18 concert with one another used excessive, arbitrary and/or unreasonable force against
19 decedent.
20

21 47. Plaintiffs are further informed, believe and therein allege that as a matter of
22 official policy – rooted in an entrenched posture of deliberate indifference to the
23 constitutional rights of persons who live, work or visit Alameda County, the Alameda
24 County Sheriff's Office has allowed persons to be abused by its Deputies, including
25 Defendant Deputies PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE,
26
27
28

1 CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25 and/or each of them, individually and/or while
2 acting in concert with one another.

3 48. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and therein allege that Alameda County Sheriff's Office
4 deputies exhibit a pattern and practice of using excessive and/or deadly force against citizens.

5 49. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and therein allege that Alameda County knew, had reason to
6 know by way of actual or constructive notice, of the aforementioned policy, culture, pattern and/or
7 practice and the complained of conduct and resultant injuries/violations.

8 50. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and capacities of Defendants DOES 1 through
9 50, inclusive, and therefore sue these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed,
10 believe, and thereon allege that each Defendant so named is responsible in some manner for the
11 injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiffs as set forth herein. Plaintiffs will amend their complaint
12 to state the names and capacities of DOES 1-50, inclusive, when they have been ascertained.
13
14

15
16 DAMAGES

17 51. As a consequence of Defendants' violation of Decedent's federal civil rights under 42 U.S.C.
18 § 1983 and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments, Plaintiffs were mentally and emotionally injured
19 and damaged as a proximate result of Decedent's wrongful death, including but not limited to:
20 Plaintiffs' loss of familial relations, Decedent's society, comfort, protection, companionship, love,
21 affection, solace, and moral support and financial support.
22

23 52. Plaintiff B.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman, Plaintiff J.L.J.A.,
24 by and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook, and Plaintiff O.A., by and through his Guardian
25 Ad Litem Chastity Williams bring this claim as co-successors-in-interest to Decedent Armstrong and
26 seek both survival and wrongful death damages, pursuant to C.C.P. Sections 377.60 and 377.61 and
27
28

1 Probate Code Section 6402(b), for the violation of both Decedent's and their rights. Additionally,
 2 Plaintiffs are entitled to the reasonable value of funeral and burial expenses pursuant to C.C.P. §§
 3 377.60 and 377.61 and loss of financial support.

4 53. Plaintiff B.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman, Plaintiff J.L.J.A.,
 5 by and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook, and Plaintiff O.A., by and through his Guardian
 6 Ad Litem Chastity Williams are further entitled to recover damages incurred by Decedent before he
 7 died as a result of being asphyxiated by restraint, of Decedent's right to life and enjoyment of life,
 8 and to any penalties or punitive damages to which Decedent would have been entitled to recover had
 9 he lived, including damages incurred by Decedent, consisting of pain and suffering he endured,
 10 during the time he struggled for his life, as a result of the violation of his civil rights.

11 54. Plaintiffs found it necessary to engage the services of private counsel to vindicate the
 12 rights of Decedent and Plaintiffs' rights under the law. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to an award of
 13 attorney's fees and/or costs pursuant to statute(s) in the event that they are the prevailing parties in
 14 this action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, 1985-86 and 1988.

15 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **Violation of Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution** 17 **(42 U.S.C. §1983)**

18 (Plaintiffs B.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman, J.L.J.A.,
 19 by and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook, and O.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem
 20 Chastity Williams Against Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE,
 21 CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25)

22 55. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 54 of this
 23 Complaint as though fully set forth.

24 56. Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO,
 25 GREEN, and DOES 1-25's above-described conduct violated Decedent's right, as provided for under
 26
 27
 28

1 the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, to be free from excessive and/or arbitrary
2 and/or unreasonable use of deadly force against him.

3 57. DECEDENT was forced to endure great conscious pain and suffering because of the
4 Defendants' conduct before his death.

5 58. DECEDENT did not file a legal action before his death.

6
7 59. Plaintiffs B.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman, J.L.J.A.,
8 by and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook, and O.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem
9 Chastity Williams, are co-successors-in-interest of DECEDENT and bring claims for damages for the
10 conscious pain and suffering incurred by DECEDENT, as provided for under 42 U.S.C. §1983.

11 60. Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO,
12 GREEN, and DOES 1-25 acted under color of law by killing Decedent without lawful justification
13 and subjecting Decedent to excessive force thereby depriving the Decedent of certain constitutionally
14 protected rights, including, but not limited to:

15
16 a. The right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, as guaranteed by the

17 Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution;

18
19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

20 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **(Violations of Plaintiffs' Fourteenth Amendment Rights to Familial Relationship)**
22 **(42 U.S.C. § 1983)**

23 (Plaintiffs BARBARA DOSS, B.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman,
24 J.L.J.A., by and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook, and O.A., by and through his
25 Guardian Ad Litem Chastity Williams, Against Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN,
26 RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25)

27 61. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference herein paragraphs 1 through
28 60 of this Complaint as though fully set forth.

62. Defendants, acting under color of state law, and without due process of law, deprived

1 Plaintiffs of their right to a familial relationship by seizing Decedent and by use of unreasonable,
 2 unjustified and deadly force and violence, causing injuries which resulted in Decedent's death, all
 3 without provocation and further attempted to conceal their extraordinary use of force and hide the
 4 true cause of Decedent's death in order to deprive Plaintiffs of their rights to seek redress in violation
 5 of their rights, privileges, and immunities secured by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States
 6 Constitution.
 7

8 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

9 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
 10 **(Monell – 42 U.S.C. section 1983)**

11 (Plaintiff B.A., by and through their Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman, Plaintiff J.L.J.A., by
 12 and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook, Plaintiff O.A., by and through his Guardian
 13 Ad Litem Chastity Williams; and Plaintiff Barbara Doss Against COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
 14 and DOES 26-50)

15 63. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporates by reference herein paragraphs 1 through 62 of
 16 this Complaint.

17 64. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that high-ranking County of Alameda
 18 Officials, including Defendant AHERN, high ranking Alameda County Sheriff's Office supervisors
 19 and DOES 26 through 50, and/or each of them, knew and/or reasonably should have known about the
 20 repeated acts of unconstitutional use of force by Alameda County – Santa Rita Jail Sheriff Deputies.

21 65. Despite having such notice, Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon
 22 allege that Alameda County and DOES 26-50, and/or each of them, approved, ratified,
 23 condoned, encouraged, sought to cover up, and/or tacitly authorized the continuing
 24 pattern and practice of misconduct and/or civil rights violations by the Alameda County
 25 Sheriff's Office, which brought about Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-
 26 VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN, and DOES 1-25 unlawfully
 27 smothering DECEDENT, killing him.
 28

66. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe and thereon allege that as a result of the deliberate indifference, reckless and/or conscious disregard of the misconduct by Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25 and/or each of them, Defendants AHERN, Alameda County and/or DOES 26-50 ratified and encouraged these officers to continue their course of misconduct.

67. Plaintiffs further allege that Defendants Alameda County and DOES 26-50 and/or each of them, were on notice of the Constitutional defects in their training of Alameda County Sheriff's Office deputies, including, but not limited to: unlawfully using excessive force, and failing to reasonably train deputies in avoiding asphyxiating subjects during restraint, exposing subjects to the risk of death by unreasonably conducted restraints.

68. The aforementioned acts and/or omissions and/or deliberate indifference by high ranking Alameda County officials, including high ranking Alameda County Sheriff's Office supervisors, DOES 26-50, and/or each of them resulted in the deprivation of Plaintiffs' and Decedent's constitutional rights including, but not limited to: the right to not be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of the law, as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and the right to be free from excessive force by police officers, as guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(Violation of Plaintiffs' State Statutory Rights)
(Violation of California Civil Code § 52.1)

(Plaintiffs Barbara Doss, B.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman, J.L.J.A., by and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook, and O.A., by and through his

Guardian Ad Litem Chastity Williams Against Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN,
RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25)

69. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 68 of this Complaint as though fully set forth.

70. Defendant PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25 above-described conduct constituted interference, and attempted interference, by threats, intimidation and coercion, with the DECEDENT's peaceable exercise and enjoyment of rights secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of California, in violation of California Civil Code § 52.1.

71. Under the provisions of California Civil Code § 52(b), Defendants are liable for punitive damages for each violation of California Civil Code § 52.1, reasonable attorney's fees and an additional \$25,0000.

72. As a proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs suffered as hereinafter set forth below.

73. Plaintiffs contend that Alameda County is liable for all state law causes of actions, under the theory of Respondeat Superior, wherein damages occurred while Alameda County employees were engaged in the performance of their job duties.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(Negligence)

(Plaintiffs Barbara Doss, B.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Lilly Coleman, J.L.J.A., by and through her Guardian Ad Litem Janae Cook and O.A., by and through his Guardian Ad Litem Chastity Williams Against Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25; and Plaintiff Barbara Doss, Against Defendants PLOSSER, CALHOUN, RIVERA-VELAZQUEZ, DEVINE, CONSTANZO, GREEN and DOES 1-25)

1
2 74. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference herein paragraphs 1 through 73 of
3 this Complaint as though fully set forth, except for any and all allegations of wrongful death,
4 intentional, malicious, extreme, outrageous, wanton, and oppressive conduct by defendants, and any
5 and all allegations requesting punitive damages.

6 75. Defendants and DOES 1-25 inclusive, by and through their respective agents and
7 employees, caused DECEDENT's death, as a result of their negligent conduct and/or negligent
8 failure to act as set-forth herein.

9
10 76. As an actual and proximate result of said defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs sustained
11 pecuniary loss and pain and suffering, in an amount according to proof at trial.

12
13 77. Plaintiffs contend that Alameda County is liable for all state law causes of actions, under
14 the theory of Respondeat Superior, wherein damages occurred while Alameda County employees
15 were engaged in the performance of their job duties.

16 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

17
18
19 **JURY DEMAND**

20 78. Plaintiffs hereby demand a jury trial in this action.

21 **PRAYER**

22 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief, as follows:

- 23 1. For general damages in a sum to be determined according to proof;
24
25 2. For special damages, including but not limited to, past, present and/or future
26 wage loss, income and support, medical expenses and other special damages in a sum to be
27 determined according to proof;
28 3. For punitive damages and exemplary damages in amounts to be determined

1 according to proof;

2 4. For reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988;

3 5. For any and all statutory damages allowed by law;

4 6. For cost of suit herein incurred; and

5 7. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

6
7
8 **LAW OFFICE OF JOHN BURRIS**

9
10 Dated: December 4, 2019

/s/ John L. Burris

11 **John L. Burris**
12 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28